

The Land Conservancy

OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

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VISIT US ONLINE AT: WWW.LCSLO.ORG

April 1, 2014

County of San Luis Obispo Parks & Recreation
Attn: Curtis Black
Deputy Director
1087 Santa Rosa Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
RE: Request of County Funds for Pismo Preserve Acquisition

Dear Curtis,
I am writing you today to formally request County funding toward the acquisition of the proposed Pismo Preserve, a 900-acre private ranch that we aim to transform into a public open space. As previously discussed, the Pismo Preserve is truly a once in a lifetime opportunity to address the regional need for permanently protected conservation lands that serve both people and wildlife.

The Five Cities-Pismo Beach, Arroyo Grande, Shell Beach, Grover Beach, and Oceano-all have population densities much higher than the state average and represent the densest region in all of San Luis Obispo County. In addition, this region currently has no upland recreation trails or open space areas. The successful acquisition of the Pismo Preserve by The Land Conservancy would forever protect a stunning coastal property in the Five Cities Region. This remarkable landscape will provide outdoor experiences for these underserved communities, and offer exceptional recreation opportunities for all county residents and visitors.

Specifically, the proposed Pismo Preserve will create access to a new open space with over ten miles of unparalleled hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding trails. The Preserve will enhance the quality of life for local residents, provide a new attraction for our region's tourism industry, and safeguard essential natural resources that ensure clean air and water. These benefits will be shared by all future generations.

The Land Conservancy is requesting a financial contribution of one million dollars from the County of San Luis Obispo to secure the Pismo Preserve for community use. This investment will be leveraged twelve-fold with matching funds from the State Coastal Conservancy, the Wildlife Conservation Board, private corporations and foundations, and from overwhelming public support. The County is being asked to fund just 8.5% of the total project cost despite being the direct beneficiary of the project's many positive impacts.

Local People. Local Land.

While the initial investment by all our funders is significant, The Land Conservancy has committed to the ownership and operation of the Preserve as a free public park with no ongoing maintenance or management costs to our local government agencies.

We have the opportunity right now to create an outstanding public open space preserve that will serve our entire County and help shape the future of the Five Cities area. I strongly urge the County of San Luis Obispo to step up as a major funding partner of the proposed Pismo Preserve.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. Please do not hesitate to let me know if you have any questions or concerns regarding this request or the Pismo Preserve project.

Kaila Dettman
Executive Director